

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q91743

Akihiro GOTO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/558,384

Group Art Unit: 1745

Confirmation No.: 4167

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: November 29, 2005

For: ELECTRODE FOR DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT, MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR
ELECTRODE FOR DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT, DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT
APPARATUS, AND DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

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However, since a statement can be made, a Statement is being filed so that in the event an Office action has issued but has not yet been received by the undersigned, the Examiner will proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant advises that the submitted document was cited in an Office Action of the Chinese Patent Office dated *January 16, 2009*. A copy of the Chinese Office Action is submitted herewith, along with a complete copy of the underlying reference. Applicant states that U.S. Patent No. **2006/0021868** is an English language equivalent of CN 1367726. Also, Applicant states that **JP 11-229159A** has been previously provided in an Information Disclosure Statement filing of *September 5, 2006*.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 27, 2009